



The COMPLAINT of the King-
dome against the evill Members of both
Houses, who have upon designe brought in
Ruine under a pretence of *Reformation*.

Relating to that former *Complaint* made
by the Citie and Counties adjacent.

WE are glad our brethren are so well recovered out
of their *Lethargie*, as to be able to informe us,
that they are growne sensible of their miseries.
Wee confesse, our selves lay stupified in a too
unhappy dreame or tameness, till this Alarm did awaken us;
and now besides the sympathie and compassion that we have of
the afflictions of our neighbours, the sense of our owne suffer-
ings is so sharpe, that wee are forced to *circumspect* the sad
accents of their just *Complaint*. More neede not be added to
that *Relation* by way of supplement, to perfect the horrible
Anatomy of our miseries: Yet we conceive it will not be in
vaine to discover who they were that (pretending to *reforme*
even our happinesse, and then to secure that happinesse by such
impregnable fortifications, as God never yet vouchsafed to de-
fence in temporall blessings withall) did at the same time no-
thing else but make that interruption and breach of our sweet
rest, which betrayed us unto all these distempers which have
succeeded; and how our repose, which should be prevalent
to restore us, is now discontinued, as it was at first disturbed,
by the very same men against our wills.

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Under the pretence of the worke of God these distractions crept in upon us, and what ever the designe be (we shall examine that anon) Gods title is made so strong to it, aswell by States men as Divines, that they thinke his omnipotency as deeply ingaged, as their owne deare interests, or seduced consciences to goe through with it. But we must professe, that what that *great worke of God is*, which their actions aime at, hath never beene sufficiently, can never be unanimously (by themselves) declared. God hath many workes, and some that are fit to goe thorow none, but those accursed hands of *Judas*; and if they would prevaile with us for our *patience* and *submission*, they must produce some prophecie; that infallibly makes them the raine of their *King and Countrey*. But yet we should take leave to tell them, that it is not such a comfortable employment to be made the rod of Gods anger, because though his wisdom useth, his goodnesse loveth not the instrument of his childrens correction: The rod is alwayes burnt for doing malicious execution.

Was the worke to chastise the pride of the King (as some have intimated) with a greater; or as some thought and exprest freely, to root out *Episcopacy, Deanes, and Chapters*, that they might establish their owne preaching Ministry, or themselves in their Revenues? This would have beene a glorious *Reformation* of those grand errors of their fore-fathers charity, when that true Devotion that had expatiated their hearts, opened their treasures to, and made them too lavish in their expences upon Gods worship. Now the effects of that zeale which burneth in our *Worthies*, are to bring downe the price of our *Religion*, to serve God at a cheaper rate, and to offer Sacrifice of that which cost them nothing. What ever the *worke* was, we see what worke it hath made amongst us; and if we observe the steps by which it hath ascended, we shall easily perceive, the Authors thought it could not succeed otherwise then by violence. What ever the modell be, the structure was not likely to be set up, as the holy Temple was, without any sound of *Axe* or *Hammer* but with *confused noise, and garments rolled in blood*. The truth is, desparing of Gods speed, we have cause

cause to beleeeve they resolved to take the Devils. Hence were those Tumults raised, Riots justified, some whereof were of that desperate nature, that the *Ring-leaders* of them made it the *emphasis* of their enraged passion, to cry out, *The King is the Traytor: The King is not fit to live: The Prince would governe better.* Those that heard these things, and are ready to make proöfe of them, have good reason to thinke His Majesty was driven from *London*, and not much misled by those evill Counsellours that advertised him of the danger.

Thus was the King and many of His Subjects little better entertained in the streets: And did His Majesties friends finde any better wellcome in both Houses? were not those Houses made a Sanctuary to the most desperate *Delinquents*, if they had learned to tune their Votes to the prevailing, because violent partly; whilst gallant sober gentlemen, who preferred solid reason and their owne conscience, before any popular Arguments, were posted up and banish't from them? For examples of the former. I need adde no more to the Instances in the *Complaint*, then Master *Griffith*, who being guilty of a barbarous attempt upon the Lady *Sidlyes* chastity, and complained of for the same, yet the House was so farre from suffering it selfe to be purged of this *able* Member, that they were pleased to advance him to an honourable office (if any office may be stiled honourable) in their *Holy Army*: And this is the man that was lately sent out in so much pompe with his silver Trumpets.

On the other side, because some worthy Members of both Houses were privy to more of their designs, then they could with a cleare heart assent unto; 'tis probable (though for no other reason) if this violent party could have construed their actions (by any rules or exceptions) into Treason, they should have lost their heads to secure their memories from betraying Close-Committee secrets. Thus many Gentlemen of knowne Integrity were deprived of those priviledges wherewith they were invested, aswell by the *Authority* of the King as the *suffrage* of their Countrey; and exposed to the rage of a rude multitude, causelessly incensed: and yet if they fled after their

Soveraigne, to seeke that security at a distance, which (retaining a good conscience) they could not promise themselves under the influence of both Houses, they were presently declared *Delinquents*, as if they could not be friends to themselves, nor loyall to their King, without perill to the Kingdome; and after the power of the Countrey refused to bring them up, (finding no just ground for it) an *Army* is voted to be levied to apprehend them; and then all their miscarriages (possibly but of humane frailty) being summd up together, if the totall would have amounted (as it easily might have done) to a *constructive* Treason, their lives had beene rendred a prey to a *Legislative*, that is, an unlimited power, as blind as a man's selfe-will or malice, and their fortunes an oblation to these mens ambition.

Thus having cast out the great ones, who were not like to fall into, or continue in their owne hands. and cunningly shuffled with the rest; they soone packt their Cardes so, as the die should never be carried (in any matter of consequence, for in triviall things they could differ upon designe) against them. The violent course they tooke made a strong side quickly, and indeed the streame grew too violent to be interrupted; and whatsoever was done by the wisdom of His Majestie to turne the *Torrent*, that it might not bring this *Inundation*, which it hath now brought upon His Royall Government; such was the power and reputation that these men had purchased amongst the people, not by their owne merit, but His Majesties *Acts of grace* conveighed through their hands to them, that it was easily made use of to His Majesties disadvantage.

His Majesty upon a timely discovery of the first rising of this proud malignant tumour, applied nothing but the gentle *lenitives* of his favour to assuage and allay it: At last after the emptying of a whole treasury of acts of grace unto his people, finding them ineffectuall to stop the current of their blind fury, and desirous to prevent those inconveniences, which we now by that meanes groane under (justice being denyed to his Ministers on this behalfe) was drawne into a necessity of going
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into the House of *Commons* in his owne person, to demand the principall *Engineers* (as His Majesty had then good reason to conceive, and all men now to suspect) of this destructive stratagem. And seeing what we now see, and feeling what we now feele, we might have had a just occasion to have given that mistake the Title of an happy *error*, as being a likely meanes, if it had taken effect, to have prevented these distempers that have insued, and settled our peace and truth to the generall contentment of the whole Kingdome, and all this without any prejudice to those mens reputation, if that charge had not beene proved against them. But this error was a weapon they have made much use of in all their Remonstrances and Declarations, and indeed the onely one that hath beene with any colour alleadged to their advantage. As for the bringing up of the *English Army*, that was but a leaden Dagger that never wounded the Kings honour amongst them that understood it truly. But this error in His Majesty was reckoned a crime of a greater magnitude, then the Treason it selfe whereof the Members were accused, and His Majesty is *en-dighted* for it in every pamphlet before the *barre* of every vulgar Judgement, where usually the charge is not sooner read, then the sentence of condemnation pronounced.

After they had raised their greatnesse to this height upon those prejudices, which they had laid against His Majesty (especially upon this mistake for which he hath done *pennance* so often in their foule sheets) they resolved either to settle what their fond ambition had designed, or else to sacrifice the peace and happinesse of the Kingdome to their owne fury. And having failed (God be praised) of successe hitherto, they continue as far distant in heart from any inclinations to our redresse, as the meanes is, which they have propounded to effect it.

When they seized upon the Kings *Milnia* they made fast addresses to our Ruine. And since we know by a sad a very sad experience, what a long and effectuall progresse they have made in it. It cannot but seeme strange, that they should presume with so much confidence to derive a power of taking *Armes* to themselves, and ground it upon the *fundamentall lawes* of the Kingdome;

Kingdome, and yet (haveing set up as strict an *inquisition* for *presidents* as for *Delinquents*) now after so many monethes elucubrations, not one fragment of Law produced to that purpose. Nay, if our owne skill and the opinion of learned and honest Judges, (who must not be consulted with in this controverſie) deceive us not, it is an attempt which the Law provides against under no lower Title then *high treason*. And yet a circulation of reports had so charmed us, and breathed so many cold feares and jealousies upon us, and these so preſt by the weight of that Authority, which (whiles it moved upon its own Center) we highly revered, that growing deafe to our owne duty at home, we usurpt the office of our Sovereigne, for our protection against pretended forraigne dangers. But after a little succession of time had undeceived us, we perceived no other dangers threatning us, then such as were now a casting in that very mould, which (we were told) was made for our security.

The hedge of our *Government* (because some *Weeds* accidentally sprung up in it, or else for that it had many *thornes*, as all good *fences* should have, to afflict transgressors that run over it) was cried quite downe, and pul'd as low as *libertinisme* could lay it, so that our faire and fruitfull *inclosure* was laid into a wild and waste *Common*. Indeed they had very provedently designed a new *pale*, but the chiefe workemen could not agree in what fashion to saw it out.

And in the interim most men (as they were engaged or encouraged) had quitted those *Trenches*, which Almighty God had digg'd for them in his holy *Ordinances*, and waited to take Sanctuary in the *Fortifications* of their projecting. Now to raise these (because they ware to encounter with many difficulties) they must have the *Sword* as well as the *Trewell*, that (if need were) they might *build* and *fight* together. To this end (the *Scots* who had beene kept long upon this designe, being dismiss) they attempted to wrest the sword out of the hand of the King, the proper owner. A fatall attempt that presaged perill to the *assailants*; for he that (thus) takes the sword (against that authority that hath the sole power of it) shall perish
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by the sword. And truly God hath miraculously made it evident, that his *Vicegerent* beareth not the sword in vaine. Not that His Majesty delights to unsheath the sword of Justice, more then for exemplary punishment, though he hath lately met with such extreme provocations, as were enough to exasperate the softest nature into fury. We find a sweet straine of grace and mercy run through the whole *Tragedy* of his sufferings, and doubtlesse had there been a suitable correspondence in the inclinations of others, the Kingdome had not at this day been stained in so deep a *dye* of blood. How much of his undoubted *rights* did His Majesty freely sacrifice for the satisfaction of his people? If we should reckon up all his acts of grace (as well those which have beene abused to our disadvantage, as those whereof we are in hope to reape the fruit hereafter) they will abundantly recompence all those pressures which evill *con-fellours* had formerly brought upon us. And (as if he could deny his people nothing whilst they suffered him to keepe any thing for himselfe) he graciously offered to commit to *hands of their owne choosing*, so large a share of the *Militia*, as might have rendred them secure, if security (in a just and legall way) had beene all they sought for. But some of them having gotten too great an interest, as well in the *faith*, as in the *affections* of the people, (who could not prevaile with themselves to be perswaded, they aimed lesse at His Majesties Honour, then at the publike good) in confidence of their strength came roundly to the businesse, and seized upon that by force, which (their very petitions can witnesse, for these were not petitions of *right*) was not due unto them. And now the King hath as much reason to exhibite a petition of *right* for the securing of his *property*, as ever the Subject had. His Forts and Townes are kept by violence, his goods arrested, and his owne Armes taken up to resist him to his face, and these will not be restorid, till he condescend to a *composition*. Nineteen propositions are sent downe to him, that His Majesty would be content with a *twentieth* part, whilst the rest of the *Crowne* is shared betweene both Houses. These seemed to be very strange propositions; in the opinion of *Loyall* Subjects, who wisht their King as much glory

ry, as these men had promised him. Yet these were so far from altering His Majesties desires of peace, that he vouchsafed to answer them; and to give either the thing demanded. or a reason of his deniall, which was better; and yet so farre from satisfaction, that wise men did equally admire the Kings *grace*, and their *unthankfulnessse*.

What should His Majesty doe? It was high time (after so many threatening votes, and hostility actually exercised at *Hull* against His Royall Person) to provide for the defence of Himselfe, and His good Subjects that attended Him, lest their *loyalty* should betray them to inevitable destruction. Hence a *guard* was raised for the safety of His Majesties Royall Person, and that consisted of the chiefe *Gentry*, that could not reasonably be presumed to contribute assistance to the *enslaving* of themselves & their posterity. And yet this small *guard* is presently declared to be raised for the subversion of *Parliament* & in that of all our native *liberties*. His Majesty was not so happy in His meanes of *undeceiving* His good people, (as He hath been since) the reputation of His *Royall Word* being blasted (to gaine credit to themselves) by their black-mouth'd *Remonstrances*. And yet all these reports (though their credit was much improved by the *Authority* of both Houses) had a very ample and sufficient *confutation* by severall messages of peace sent from *Nottingham*. Now if we looke to the reception, it was nothing suitable to the errand; which (if we may conclude from the entertainment) was so farre from finding a compliyante of inclinations, that it met with very little *Civility* or good nature amongst them. For interpreting all these Acts of *grace* but instances of his *weaknesse*, they were more desperately bent, and urged by new votes, that their Army might advance to make a speedy assault upon them. Where by the way let me hint thus much: If those severall messages proceed out of *weaknesse*, we may take notice of a speciall Providence, that so suddenly encreas'd His Majesties Forces even to *admiration*. But if the said proposals were the genuine offspring of a gracious Prince, then they were extremely unthankfull to slight the noble messengers, and so scornfully to cast so many offers of a peace behind them. As
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weake as His Majesty was, Almighty God preserved him from their fury, and was his safe *convoy* to *Edge-hill*; where (having been formerly advertised of a petition) he might very well have expected some handsome addresse before an alarm from them. 'Tis true, they say a very humble Petition (subscribed with a deale of Ceremony by both Houses) was committed to the hands of the *Generall* (*the Earle of Essex*;) but it seems it was ordered (if they conceived it for their advantage, which they supposed they had then gotten) to be delivered and made report of by the mouth of a *Cannon*. Well, these men, who were too mighty to imbrace an offered peace (as Gods providence would have it) were so discomfited (if we may have leave to speak the truth) that by that time His Majesty was advanced to *Colebrooke*, their weaknesse had inclined them (and in good time be it spoken, it was the first step they set) to an *Accommodation*. And His Majesty (not triumphing in the ruine of His worst subjects, being a losing *Conquerour* in so sad a victory, nor desirous to improve the use of His sword, beyond the recovering of His just rights; and settling that law by which He holds them) met them with a gracious and ready cheerfulness to accomplish it. But in the interim, whilst the Messengers are making their addresses to His Majesty, the souldiers pursuing their sad though just and necessary imployment, advanced to *Brainceford*, and becaule they put the *Red Regiment* and some others (as is conceived) to the worst, they are accused of *treachery*. Nay the King Himselfe must be slandered, though (if the matter be well examined) they had no reason to complaine, but that the day went against them: For can a souldier expect *quarter* before he asks it? Or an Army imagine to be at *truce* in the view of the enemy before a *truce* be moved? In other places upon *Treaties* of this nature, Courts of Guard are doubled; and were they so unacquainted with the customes of warre, as not to provide against all advantages of the enemy? I know not what they expected from His Majesty, but I am sure His Majesty never found more faire play from them, (though His subjects) nor so much as he might have done from a *forraigne* Enemy. Admit they did upon second

thoughts send a Messenger to desire a *Cessation* from all hostile acts; we know the business was put in execution before the Messengers arrivall, nay, it stopt him in the midst of his journey. If they had beene desirous to prevent all further *effusion* of blood, the motion should have been made more seasonably (as it might have been by their first Messengers) to His Majesty. What *Revelations* other men may goe upon, we know not; but we are sure His Majesty doth not pretend to be acquainted with their desires by inspiration. And His Majesties forces had great reason to use all meanes to frustrate the advantage which their enemies had taken. Wee know how their Souldiers had almost on all sides invironed him, and new forces raised in *London*, advanced with speed towards them, and why might not his Majesty advance forward, as well as His Adversaries? If they say, their Generall did but pursue their order, which was given the night before their Messengers set forth, they doe but tell us in effect, that they had laid the designe so cunningly, that themselves might take any advantage freely; but if the King did the like, it was predestinated to be called Treachery.

We could tell of gracious Letters directed to the House at that time, but intercepted by their Army, and committed close prisoners to the Earle of *Essex* pockets, for no other crime then bringing peaceable intimations. The truth is, the mannagery of this Warre was committed to such hands as were glad of any occasion, colourably to decline the way of peace: For what did they say; *His Majesty is yet too strong to bee dealt withall by a Treaty*; which implieth, they must endeavour to secure His Royall Person by the ruine of those whose loyalty hath raised them up to guard it, that they may the better subvert his Government before their owne designe could bee effected.

Whilst all their preparations are for battaile, His Majesty labours still for peace; to which He once againe invites them by a Message sent from *Reading*: But they are now growne deafe on both eares to Propositions of that nature; and the very name of Accommodation (for we know the man that said
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he hated it) is become odious and malignant. They breath forth nothing but challenge and defiance against His Majesty ; and these men that could cheerfully entertaine suitors of any condition, or any mans procuring : whilst their Courtship was taught to wooe them not to embrace what was fit or profitable for the Kingdome , but what their own affections had made choice of, in order to the satisfying of their ambition. Now they grow coy , and frowne upon all such as sollicite them in the name of peace ; as if she were so farre from being an ingredient in it , that she were the onely obstacle to our happinesse.

First, the bleeding miseries of the Kingdome of *Ireland* (which must wholly be laid upon the score, who have obstructed their reliefe through these distempers of their owne raising) spurr'd them on to frame their sad Complaints into Supplications, to which his Majesty lent a gracious eare, and offered to contribute assistance in any way that could be propounded to Him : but the two Houses (who were formerly very angry, that they might not have all the honour of reducing that wretched Kingdome) afforded little pity, lesse aid unto them; many bitter discontented spirits raising scruples and murmurings at the Petition , instead of applying themselves to the reliefe of their distresses for the present, or to make a peace with His Majesty, (as was desired) whereby they might be enabled to assist them for the future.

Then the many prodigious tokens of our ruine here at home began to awaken us, and make us solicitous for our owne safety. The most substantiall Citizens meeting together in no other ominous or formidable posture , then with gloves on their hands to move a Petition for peace ; and they are accused for committing a riot, and imprisoned, whilst forces sent to assault and murder them, are interpreted (by their great Doctors of the Law) to keep the peace of the Kingdome.

These men that have so long beguiled the people with false Alarmes , and never more then by pretending to have bent all their endeavours to work a good understanding and reconciliation with His Majesty, have been so farre from giving

countenance to Petitions of that nature, that all their endeavours have been (and sometimes by Messengers directed on purpose) to strangle them; and such *Gentlemen* as have been employed in their Countrey on such errands, have for that service-like been plundered, their Horses taken from them, (as our neighbours of *Essex* are able to depose;) and the authority of the Houses by which they were taken, either cannot or will not be effectually exercised to recover them, but an *appeale* must be made from them unto the *close-Committee*.

But what! is there no excuse to be alleadged to take off the blemish of this action? Truly, their web is not of so plain a spinning, but they have many pretty coloured threds runne thorow it. They'le tell us, *'Tis no more needfull for the people to spurre them on to their duty, then lawfull to direct them in it; such Petitions are sawcy breaches of their Priviledges: They have the sole power to judge of sense and reason, and the dangers of the Kingdome.* Indeed they have most reason to be acquainted with the nature of those dangers, that were first premeditated, and since of their owne actuall forging. Certainly, as these men have laboured to thrust out both our eyes, that we might not see; so they would extinguish our memories, that we might remember nothing. They should engage some of their instruments to teach us an Art of forgetfulnesse, in behalfe of many *Acts* in the time of their owne *reigne*, as well as an Art of memory, in behalfe of some sufferings under the *reigne* of our Sovereign: at least, they shall have voted an *oblivion*, that their owne late practices of encouraging *Petitioners* of another straine, as bold and *directary*, might not rise up to their condemnation.

But why should it be reputed a breach of good manners for *Petitioners* to suggest the means of their owne redresse? Every man knowes best where his owne shooe pinches. Necessity stands not upon Ceremonies, and doubtless Beggars may be choosers, when the choice is, Whether they will submit to their owne ruine against Law and Equity, or maintaine those Rights wherewith they are legally invested, under the Protection of a gracious Sovereigne, against the spoile and rapine of an *Arbitrary* power.

Well!

Well ! if men that have lived under the dominion of *Mars* and *Sol*, (being taught by their effects to put a difference betwixt them) finding the first to be incomparably most malignant, begin to desire to be look't upon with a more propitious influence. If it be imputed for a crime to these men to Petition; that the storm (without doubt raised by spirits, in whom the Prince of the ayre worketh, who worketh in all the children of disobedience) might be calmed, that they might enjoy their old comfortable Sun-shine : Yet me-thinks a motion for Peace (which no State till our dayes condemned for an *ill Minister*.) made by one of their owne Members, might have past without exception. That grand Assessor of the publike liberty, who in civility gave the King the title of a *Sovereigne*, when he kept the Authority to himselfe, and confounded the undoubted Rights of the Crowne, with the never-heard-of Priviledges of Parliament, we meane Sir John Hotham, (who out of a remorse of conscience, that he had been the prime instrument of this combustion, or out of an apprehension of an unlikelihood of prevailing, cursed himselfe) moved no lesse then three main wheelles at once, to set forward the work of an Accommodation. (Those Letters of his to the Earles of Northumberland and Holland, and to the Speaker of the House of Commons, had been as well worth the peoples reading (if they had had a purpose to let the people see any thing tending to their peace and happinesse) as those from the Earle of Stamford, of the totall defeat which he had given Sir Ralph Hopton; (of the truth of which the Houses have since been sufficiently informed :) Or those other of the Lord *Fairefax*, interlined with an ordinary glosse, and so printed for the benefit of the setters forth. But these from Sir John Hotham did not speak to the sense of the Lords and Commons, that use to sit in Merchant Taylors Hall at midnight, and therefore were not fit to be communicated. And if we enquire how they were accepted, we shall find that they had but little better welcome then the Retitions of peace had to both Houses. Such a jealousy is presently raised against him, that though he had committed Treason against his King, to become their faithfull servant, he begins to

feare he shall be suffered to play *Rex* no longer, and complains of it : and many think if they had not more feared their owne then his *perishing* by *water*, they had cast him out of his *Arke*, for bringing this Olive branch to them.

As they were averse to motions of peace themselves, so were they strangely opposite to the tendring of such supplications to His Majesty. Indeed they had reason ; for (wanting competent evidence to speak for them) they had often commended their own endeavours for peace, and made us believe that their frequent suits found His Majesties care inexorable. They were loth this device (which they had improv'd to some advantage amongst the ordinary and lesse knowing sort of people, where most of their *game* lies) should be discovered by any Petitioners personall attendance upon His Majesty. Hence the Messengers that carried the Petition of *Westminster*, &c. (though they had obtained a warrant from the House for their free and safe passage) were surpris'd in the way ; and upon search made, some *scandalous* Pamphlets (as they called them for speaking the truth) which in all probability had been committed to the Coachman, by that *setting-Dogge* that discovered them ; for the businesse was a deep mystery, and a very riddle to the Gentlemen : these were quickly found, (the searchers being pre-instructed in the plot) and so the Messengers were brought back againe, that they might not present their prayers to His Majesty.

But His Majesties Grace, as it invited all, so it found supplicants from other parts of the Kingdome, whose distance from them was their best, if not their onely priviledge from interruption and imprisonment : (We say nothing of the usage of the *Hertsfordshire* Petitioners.) And after these men perceived that no *art* or *industry* could prevent it, but the Court would be frequented with solicitations of this nature, as long as it had a gracious *care*, that took so much pleasure to entertaine them ; they directed a contrivall of a plausible *Petition* to be carried to the King in the name of the *Common-Councell*. His Majesty (never wanting to any thing that might repaire our unhappy breaches) vouchsafed a *gracious* answer ; and such as (if it had been

been duely followed) had led us the way to vety just, and no lesse easie termes of Accommodation. But observe how careful these men are to worke a good understanding between the King and His Subjects: They breake through all the *Liberties and Priviledges* of the City (when we see the *Rights* of the *Crowne* trampled on, we cannot expect that any *Priviledge* should stand before that of committing *Treason*.) And the people must not reade the Kings pleasure, unlesse they will put on *Spectacles* of Master *Pym*s making; nor heare His Majesty speake to them, unlesse His authentick *Text* be first corrupted by false Comments.

Was any *County* willing to be dis-ingaged, desirous (because they could not avoid it) to be sad *Spectators*, rather then wild *Actors* in this bloody *Tragedy*. Why such a *neutrallity* is voted to be *malignant*, such a peace *destructive*? Though *Articles* be concluded, and ratified by their subscriptions, the mutuall pledges of their faith, yet this must not *atone* those neighbours, that knew not why, nor wherein they differed. These men can finde Principles in the Schooles of *Jesuites*, (and such as are no where else to be found) that *Faith* is not to be kept with *Hereticks*, with *Malignants*, and men *Popishly affected*; (they runne parallel with them a great deale further) and hereupon they use those new *Parliamentary* Keyes of their owne making, to reverse all the *bolts* of these engagements, as if they had the same power to dispense with consciences, which they pretend to have in dispensing with the Lawes of the Kingdome. Thus those *two* Counties of *Torke* and *Cheshire*, when they had set their hands to the happy bonds of peace, and might have sat quietly under their owne vines, were by *Votes*, (and nothing else) provoked (like creatures without reason) to worry one another. These men that have so much of the *publike* faith, how little would they have of *publike* charity?

Have many Gentlemen put themselves into a posture of Warre, and obtained their Commission onely to *stake* by them, that they might the better furnish themselves for His Majesties service, which they aimed at? Have others, not a few, (and some

some of their nearest and dearest creatures) out of a late sense of the weaknesse of their *cause*, or *party*, or *both*, plaid the Souldiers indeed, and turned *faces about*, with a resolution and zeale to recompence His Majesty by their good service, for the opposition which they had too long, but ignorantly made against him? Have others (who by the losse of a good *fore-game*, are taught to play an *after-one*) delivered up those *Commissions*, that enabled them to fight against their owne *honour*, and spill all their *noble bloud*? These, though they may prove dangerous *fore-runners* of a grand *Apostasie* from the good *worke*, yet we must be perswaded they doe more *animate* unto the cause, then discourage them. The *worke* is look't upon, as if God himselfe had actually *cut* it out, and appointed a *select* company, (though never so few, if desperately enough *seditions*) by an especiall and immediate designation to finish it.

Hence those Propositions for *Accommodation*, which most part of the Kingdome had sued for; and themselves (finding a necessity in it, to take off that dislike that began generally to fall upon them) had promised should be prepared, were delayed ten or twelve weekes together; and before they are carried, are taught to speake such a language as doth but begge their just deniall. To answer these, His Majesty is allowed but ten *dayes*, and (willing to cut the sufferings of His people as short as He could) He graciously dispatched an answer almost in as few houres. He offers Propositions that a modest *Conquerour* would have accounted reasonable, and yet submits them together with their *owne*, and a *cessation* to a *Treaty*. These are brought to the Lords House, and the violent party there not able to *hinder* it by *Votes*, endeavour to *intangle* it by *intricacies*. The *hint* is given to the *leading* men of the House of Commons; and instead of voting a *Cessation* in order to the *Treaty*, they require an absolute *disbanding* of all Forces, and yet no termes of peace concluded on: so that the result of all would be but this, the King must quit His *Martiall* attendants, and resigne Himselfe up once againe into the hands of *seditions Tumults*; (for those must not be spoken against) & then they shall be prepared for their *Treaty*. Some were so taken with this
 piece

piece of Sophistry, that they openly boasted; *They had plaid their game too cunningly for His Majesty*: Truly a masterpiece of his *Policie*, whose designs (if they be not made frustrate by a higher power) can finde no period but in utter *ruine*. Some 14 dayes were spent upon this *plot*, and yet it was not ripened for His Majestie, which occasioned another gracious *Messlage* to prevent all mistakes, (for His Majesty must be very punctuall, or else He is sure to be Declared *Traytor*) touching the limits of the *Cessation*; (which, as His Majestie was informed, they had at last voted.) What fruit all this *seede* will bring forth, perhaps the *Spring* may shew us; in the meane-while we are in a longing expectation, and must needs wonder, that having confined their King to so short a time, (which His Majestie in compassion of the miseries of His people, made nine parts shorter too) themselves should not be ashamed to spin out their debates, when it lies in them onely (if they were not wanting to their duty, both to King and people) to put a present end to our calamities. At last (whiles we are penning these *Observations*) newes is brought of their *condescension* to a *Treaty*, and (to shew what *reall* affections they have to peace, or what a plentiful number they have all this while had against it) one of the two appointed by the Lords must needs be the Lord *Say*, whose *long-practised* principles of *Schisme* have led him so far in the advancement of *Sedition*, that he is deservedly proscribed a *Traytor* by His Majesty, so that (not able to doe more to obstruct the way to our peace and happinesse) they have brought the businesse to this *Dilemma*; His Majesty must either *treat* (and that face to face too) with a grand *Rebell*, (in all probability imployed on purpose to give a defeat to the whole *Treaty*) or else must expect to have the *Odium* of refusing peace cast upon Him.

Well! to draw a conclusion from these, but too true and too sad premises: If neither the gracious *Messages* and *Invitations* of His Majesty; nor the sorrowfull prayers and supplications of the distressed, as well in *England* as *Ireland*, nor the earnest perswasions of their owne discouraged, or relenting party; nor the frequent *retournes* unto their *allegiance*, of such

as are daily *undeceived* amongst them, If neither the bleeding miseries actually ruinating in two Kingdomes at *home*, nor the invied dangers threatning from *abroad*, If none of these can, or if all these, with our *Religion, Lawes, Lives and Fortunes*, likely to be buried in the ashes of this *imminent* destruction, cannot prevale one whit upon these fierce spirits, to soften their hard and (hitherto) unrelenting hearts, and incline them to thoughts of *Peace* and *Accommodation*; what can the inference amount unto lesse, then what we promised to make good in the beginning? *viz.* That the firebrands of this pestilent faction are in a desperate travaile for the birth of some monstrous designe, which cannot be ushered into the world but by confusion. We all know whose expression it was, *I hate the name of Accommodation*; and the spirit of contradiction and dissention was not raised in them, as they raised it in the people, by the conjuration of *Plots and Conspiracies*, (under-ground workes, which no body could discover but their owne *Artists*, that invented them to imbitter the minds of men against His Majesty.) But all this was the fruit of that Spirit of contention, which they first brought with them to the service (though it had proyed the disservice) of the Kingdom; witnesse that prodigious *Omen* that long agoe presaged our approaching ruine. When that potent Gentleman put *Moderation* into the Catalogue of his *vices*, he left us to expect nothing else but those bitter fruits of *violence*, which we have since too sufficiently tasted.

Now the said accounts of Warre have taught the people the price of Peace; what, doe they oppose to stop the current of their solicitations? 1. They make speeches in the House, in disgrace of Peace; and from that *common* sense, a sense must be derived unto the whole Kingdom. Till they have spilt all the blood of the *ungodly*. or *malignant*, (as they tearme them) they plead an impossibility of enjoying peace with her due *investures*, as if (because they have begun such a Warre) they could not conclude any other Peace, but what is a stranger unto *truth and righteousness*. The Lord *Brookes* and others have made great use of their *talents* this way, to their great honour amongst

amongst the *bretheren* of the *Separation*. When these prevailed to thrust peace out of the Houses, there was another plot to cut the *throat* of it in the Citie. A multitude (as they had found by long experience) is good at a *dead lift*; and if they be set upon't, to have all matters tryed by *club law*, there is no appealing from them. Well! such *forces* must be levied as offer up their prayers unto both Houses by an *implicite* faith in a language they understand not, thinking any thing a blessing that such a *heavenly* man as Doctor *Burgeffe* invites them to petition for, and so poore *fooles* are earnest suitors to be wedded to the miseries of a *civill warre*, from which other *Nations* long to be redeemed. If *shame*, or *discretion*, or *conscience* makes men backward to this hellish designe, then the *Pulpit* must be turn'd into a Mount *Ebal*. from whence the *Emissaries* of the House of Commons *curse* them. Lest sedition should not *thrive* fast enough, they suborne these Preachers, and obtrude them upon (almost) every Parish, to sow the seeds thicker; and these men, though not of so long a standing, have improved their stocke of *impudence* beyond the Devill himselfe. He came whiles the *servants* slept, but these disperse their *tares* in the field whiles they looke upon them. These are the *Bellowes* to this fire, the *Trumpets* to this warre, that boggle nor at blasphemy, to perswade the people that God is engaged in their *conspiracy* against his *Anointed*; and to this end their prayers are of a more *sanguine* complexion, then *Esau's* pottage, These are they that have taken this advantage of stirring up the people to *spoil* and *rapine*, that they may (this way) root out a regular Ministry, and be planted in their places: Inso-much as one of them tells us in his *Plaine English*, *He hath a great deal of reason to be confident, that scarce any considerable man* (he speakes of the Clergy) *who hath beene engaged in this quarrell on the Parliament part, if he retaines his integrity,* (he should have changed that word for sedition) *dares abide the issue of a present Accommodation.* Certainly there can be nothing but their owne *guilt* that should move them to distrust the protection of that *Law* which they have beene bred and borne to. These men can have no fishing but in troubled wa-

rers, and therefore when they have done sweating in the persecution of *Peace* in the Pulpit, they assault her in the Presse; and in both they have a great advantage: for they wrestle at liberty, whiles the Champions of *Peace* have their hands tyed behind them. They speake *plaine English*, whiles the other have their tongues clipt; or if they speake out, are imprisoned: So that *Peace* is first awed into *silence*, and then by these men prest to death, because she doth not plead to her endightment. These are the instruments so destructive to our peace, so industrious in fomenting this execrable Warre. These are the very *Becons*, that (being set on fire themselves) with their prodigious *blazes* have raised so many Countries in *Armes*, to their owne ruine. These are the grand *Projectors* to raise men and money, making their Ministry but a Pander to Rebellion. Their stratagemes have beene to awaken them by sounding this Alarm in their eares: That Gods cause, the Protestant Religion, Lawes. Liberties, Properties. Priviledges of Parliament, yea their lives, with the lives of their deare wives and children, ly all at the stake. They went a step higher in the beginning, perswading them they were to fight for the defence of the Kings Rights, and to rescue His Sacred Person from the hands of the *Cavaliers*; (so in a disgrace they termed His Majesties Illustrious Nephewes, with the chiefe Nobility and Gentry of the Kingdome) who (as they said) had surprized Him.

When they were supplied with men, (animated by these devices) what course did they leave unattempted to raise money to maintaine them? Under the name of the *publike faith* (a chest that is bottomelesse and insatiable) they have erected a new *lotterie*; (to cheat our *faith*, and begger the *publike*.) From hence the adventurers were sure to carry away nothing but *blankes*, the *prizes* being designed for themselves, and the Officers that were neere them; some of which are not ashamed to sound the Trumpet for it. When the free Contributions were exhausted from *Voluntiers*, men came to be prest to these prodigall expences. After they had *lent* some, they were justly paid the *use* by having the rest *taken* from them. Men were
 not

not onely forced to part with their *own*, but to disburie *others* money also, or committed to prison for their refusal. This was *Langherne* and *Vivians* case, who were committed to *Colchester* Goale, for denying to pay 2000*l*. which was due to the *Prince* from them, and yet the Receiver plundered of the money. These men are no lesse carefull for the maintenance of the Kings children then of his Majestie, provided it may be done by taking away their Revenues; and thus all the *Rights* as well of King as People, have beene secured by an *Antiphrasis* of Parliament. When the Merchants were in dispute about the lading of the Ship called *Sancta Clara*. these charitable men (that love no strife betweene brethren) umpir'd in the businesse, and to reconcile the difference, seized upon the goods, which must not be redeemed to the use of the right owner, under the loane of 20000*l*. I pray God they have not this trick to compromise all the differences of the Kingdome. To raise money they have robbed both the Church and the Spittle, six thousand pounds being collected for the repairing of *S. Andrews Holborne*, were fetcht away by the Earle of *Manchester* and others, in the night. If this Church fall, they have ingaged themselves to build God a new house in blood. We reade of *Hezekiah*, that he gave all the *silver* that was found in the house of the Lord to make his peace with a forreigne and idolatrous King: but for subjects to take Gods money to wage Warre against a pious Prince. we beleewe this may be made one of the first precedents; They have not beene more favourable to the *mysticall* then to the *mueriall* Temples of God. A great collection was made for the reliefe of the poore Protestants in *London Derry*, and (besides those vast summes raised by Subsidie for the Armies there) this was all converted to the use of this bloody War, whilst those our miserable brethren are ready to perish (as many that went before them) in their distresses. To recompence them from this wrong, they have imployed their Preachers to advance another collection for them; which comming into the same hands, we suspect will be conveighed the same way. They tooke like care for the disposall of that collection made for *Brainceford*, for the poore of the

Parish have not beene a farthing the better for it hitherto, and we beleeeve the Spring will have so well *recovered* them, that their Physitians will thinke it needlesse to *administer* what was so long agoe *provided* for them. Whether these men, that would have no summe passe by their owne *bagge*, care more to relieve the *poore* then *Judas* did, may appeare by diverse *instances*: amongst the rest they brake into the Hospirall at *Gilford* in *Surrey*, and tooke 400l. from them: and a fine device was lately set on foot to raise another summe. There is a pretence for poore children to be sent over to get good *breeding* in *New-England*, a collection must be made for them, and this must be committed to the hands of their *trusty* and *well-beloved* Alderman *Pennington*, which is like to be *employed* to the use for which it was pretended, as faithfully as those summes gathered for *London Derry* and *Branceford* were.

Now, lest the peoples zeale should wast with their purses, they keepe them warme by a continuall breathing of reports upon them. If Letters come that speake but upon heare-say, they first expunge so much of the relation as might tend to the discouraging of their party, and then publish them as the History of some great defeat; and (if need be, as there is need enough) they have their *Observatour* to write *Commentaries* upon them, lest the people should mistake the rare passages of Gods providence on their side. Another while they declaime against the Kings Army as *Popish*, (forgetting that their *good wroke* is supported by men of any Nation or Religion; and that the Lord *Say* and the Lord *Brookes*, two leading Cards of that faction, have often protested they would dispencc with all sorts of Religions, (though now they make an exception of the true Protestant) so they might exercise their owne freely; and that such a generall Toleration ought to be granted is their avowed opinion; and indeed, their *independency* cannot consist otherwise, for if I be accountable to none, I will use what Religion I please, without controule.) It hath been well observed, that when there hath beene any businesse of consequence to be debated in the Houses, they have still had the good fortune to be encouraged by the newes of some strange successe,

ſucceſſe, or exaſperated by ſome great provocation, ſuggeſted by ſuch as made the diſcovery for advantage: But they have beene ſo provident as to lay reports of this nature at a conſiderable diſtance, that they might not be confuted before the preſent turne were ſerved. Thus wee were made beleeve, whileſt His Majesties Army was in *Yorkeſhire*, and in thoſe remote parts, that they conſiſted of none but *Papiſts* and *Delinquents*; but this miſt caſt before the peoples eyes to blind them, was ſoone diſpelled by the rayes of our Sovereignes piety, as He drew neare us. And however the Earle of *Newcaſtles* Forces lie all under the ſame ſcandall now, yet as great a cloud as this hath vaniſh'd into nothing; and 'tis poſſible they may draw ſo neare us, that (notwithſtanding their duty and alleagiance have brought ſome *Papiſts* into that Army) we may diſtinctly underſtand, that the *Maſſe*, which they ſay is ſo commonly uſed, will prove no other then the *Booke of Common-Prayer*.

With theſe juggling and ſight-of-hand trickes wee have beene long amazed, but they have beene plaid ſo often over that every man who is not wilfully blinde diſcovers them; and now they ſerve for no uſe but for wiſe men to lament, and boyes to laugh at; we may juſtly wonder what *ſprings* they move by, that drive them on ſo furioſly againſt the ſtream of truth, law, and reaſon: and yet we may ceaſe to wonder, for we have beene ſufficiently informed, that ſome of this violent party are ſpur'd on by the law of their owne *neceſſities*. A Captaines pay *per annum* is More money then five of their prime *Inſtruments* were ever owners of. The *Honeſt Letter* hath told us on which ſide the beggerly Lords and Gentlemen are of; and 'tis eaſily concluded, if we conſider who they are that take the preſent pay out of a publike ſtocke, whileſt their *Cure* is ſerved by their under-officers and who they are that ſerve in their owne perſons; and beſides the hazard of their reſidence raiſe and maintaines Forces at their owne charges. Others we know purſue this deſigne out of an inveterate malice unto Maſteſtie. It was an expreſſion of but little loyaltie, (and not the further from truth becauſe uttered in a *Taverne*)
that

that *They would make the King as poore as Job, unlesse he did comply with them.* That Champion that wrestled so stoutly with his Sovereigne at Law, in the case of *Ship-money.* might have come off with honour, if he had staid there : But seeing him (after satisfaction) one of the first in the field, desperately provoking His Majesty to the sharpe, we suspect malice, though we hope he will be deceived in the length of the Kings weapon, and so perish by it. Others know and have protested the King cannot in honour *pardon* them ; and if they should submit to the Law, they are too sure that would prove a *killing* letter to them, and therefore they dare not abide the issue of an *Accommodation.* Others having transformed themselves into Angels of *light*, possesse the people, that they were of a nearer communion, even of the Cabinet-Councell with God himselfe, and broached their *illusions* for divine *Revelations.* These men could see, that God had plainly chalked out a way in his holy Word, which our fore-fathers for 1500 yeeres together could never see : That Jesus Christ had sate all this while besides his *Throne*, and they must dispossesse *Antichrist* (whose spirit and manner of working by lying wonders, &c, they are very well acquainted with) before our Saviours government can be established. These men being canoniz'd for Saints by the ignorant multitude, (that understand not the depth of *Satans* delusions) thinke it too great a disgrace to be *stigmatized* with an ignominious death for Sedition, which they know they are by Law guilty of.

Those men that began the Warre upon such unwarrantable grounds, and have purused it to the murdering of so many thousands, will undoubtedly drive it (if it be possible) to the last pinch : For although, we hope, they shall never compromise differences to their owne personall safety and preferment, and our irrevocable slavery, as one of their *Clerkes* (in his frivolous paper) saith they may doe ; yet they will drive it on as long as they have any hopes to get so great a *pawne* into their hands, as shall inable them to make their owne conditions. If this faile, having shipt away so much of the *Treasury* of the Kingdome as may make them considerable and welcome guests to

to *New-England*, or such other places, they care not how miserable they make this Land before they leave it. And here by the way we could wish, that our own mony (that was ordered to be transported in *Trunkes* without searching) might not be brought back to buy our goods withall; for our stocke being plundered by them, if they may have the liberty (as they take liberty to doe any thing) to prize it for themselves, we may presume they will afford good penny-worths, and never leave us till they have removed both the *Exchanges*, with the Kings *Exchequer* and the *Chamber of London*, into the Earle of *Warwickes* new Liberties. 'Tis time to look about us, for we are to play our game with the greatest *Cheaters* in *Christendome*, who think they have as good a Warrant to spoile such as they have call'd *Malignant*, (for no other reason then their loyalty) as ever *Israel* had to spoile the *Egyptians*.

< Let us no longer suffer our selves to be abused, and mis-led by those false lights which they have hung out to deceive us. Doe not all their practices runne counter to their pretences? Doe we not perceive them look one way, and steere the contrary? Let us learne to know their *aines*, not by their *words*, but by their *actions*. If we trace them through all their *proceedings*, we shall find they have given the *lie* to every particular *pretence*, though never so speciously alledged for their justification in this warre.

Who was more cryed up then the defence of the true *Protestant Religion*? This was the very *shield* and *buckler* of their *Army*. This is made the *Generalismo* of all their Arguments, and marcheth in the *front* of all the *battaile*. If this were not at the stake, most men conclude the warre absolutely *unlawfull*. But how a quarrell can be *justly* made to defend a Religion, that condemnes such a quarrell and such a defence, (as the true *Protestant Religion* doth) I professe I understand not. If our Religion did runne an aparent hazard, I am confident this scandalous and offensive defence cannot be justified, but by such *Jesuitidall* principles, as all the Schooles of *Protestants* (except the *Scots*, and not all of them neither, for the Ministers of *Aberden* have declared themselves clearly and solidly of this

opinion in their *Duplies*) have unanimously exploded. But we have sufficient grounds of suspicion, that the Religion which is so barbarously militant in a *Buffe-coat*, is not the same Religion which was peaceably obedient in a *Surplice*. Wee reade in *Plaine English* of hopes they have, not onely of reforming, that is, rooting out our *Discipline*, but also of purging our *Doctrin*e : notwithstanding they have bound themselves by a solemne Protestation, (if any such thing can binde them, for they have done as much for the Kings Person, Rights and Dignity) to maintaine it. We had thought they would have made their new *experiments* onely upon our old Governmnet; but it seemesthat wise *Colledge* of State-Physicians think it fit to make the *Doctrin*e of our Church their *Patient*, and we are afraid they will let too much bloud there too; and their purge, if they be suffered to administer, will be strong enough to overthrow it. Well ! whether the maintenance of the true *Protestant* Religion be the Argument of this sword-dispute, may be decided by a speedy tryall : Let them reduce the *Fabricke* of our Religion according to the *Model* of Queen *Elisabeths* time, in which those foundations were laid, which made the Church of *England* the most eminent and glorious of all *Protestant* Churches : If His Majesty consents not to all this, and to something more (upon the advice of a grave and learned *Synod*) for the satisfaction of tender consciences, but recedeth from His many free and gracious offers to that purpose, then let those bitter and scandalous imputations of inclining unto *Popery* be never washt away from Him. But if this be one of the maine Arguments of His Majesties taking up just, necessary, and defensive Armes against *Anabaptists*, *Brownists*, and *Seſtaries*, who have already throwne downe the *hedge*, and now fall to pillaging of the *grapes* of the Lords *Vineyard*, and that with countenance and encouragement from a party in both Houses; then we may conclude we approach very fast unto *Atheisme* and *Prophanenesse*, and are fallen into those times which Sir *Walter Raleigh* speakes of in his *Histories of the Word*, *B. 2. Chapt. 5. sect. 1.* speaking of the care that *Moses* had of all things that concerned the worship and service

vice of God ; which care of his all ages have in some degree imitated : Yet (sayes he, and we may say so more truly) it is now so forgotten, and cast away in this super fine age, by those of the family ; By the Anabaptists, Brownists, and other Sectaries, as all cost and care bestowed and had of the Church, wherein God is to be served and worshipped, is accounted a kind of Popery, and as proceeding from an Idolatrous disposition ; insomuch as time would soone bring to passe (if it were not resisted) that God would be turned out of Churches into Barnes, and from thence againe into the Fields and Mountaines, and under the Hedges ; and the offices of the Ministers (robb'd of all dignity and respect) be as contemptible, as these places : All Order, Discipline, and Church-Government, left to newnesse of opinion, and mens fancies : yea, and soone after, as many kindes of Religion would spring up, as their are Parish Churches within England : Every contentious and ignorant person clothing his fancy with the Spirit of God, and his imagination with the gift of Revelation ; insomuch, as when the Truth, which is but one, shall appeare to the simple multitude, no lesse variable then contrary to it selfe, the faith of men will soone after die away by degrees, and all Religion held in scorne and contempt. Doth not this directly hit the temper of our times, wherein the conformable ministry is generally discountenanced, ignorant and seditious persons, men of all qualities and professions, set up like Jeroboams Calves to out-face them ? Wherein all sorts of Conventicles (forbidden by Law) are tolerated and frequented by those that ought to punish them : wherein men will take upon them to be Magistrates, and declaime against the publike worship and service of God, as it hath stood ever since the Reformation in the Church of England, and shut up the doores of the Mother-Church, (if it bee lawfull to use any name of reverence and authority, besides the name of a Parliament) that the solemn service of God may not be administred, as it hath been, for a president to other Churches : wherein men are imprisoned and cannot be enlarged, unlesse they will promise to forbear the use of the Common-Prayer, the Crosse in Baptisme, and kneeling at the holy Communion ; wherein the holy Apostles of our Saviour

are unfainted, as if we now doubted of their salvation : all this, and more then this, can be proved against Alderman *Pennington*, If wee look into the House, lest their Members should not bee infected fast enough with this pestilent *disease*, the Preachers of their choosing were for the most part notorious, schismaticall *Separatists*. And for the *Synod* (of their owne setting forth, after a new translation) for feare the Clergy should have sent men that were too orthodoxall, they deprived them of their rights, (forgetting their Protestation, or taking them to be not the Subjects intended, in it) and made choice of as many men as they could get, under no remarkable *character*, but for their ignorant *novelty*, and factious *singularity* of opinion. If we look upon the men they most confide in, we shall find them of the same stampe, or else their prisoners must not be committed to them. Doctor *Leyton* an old *Scottish* Preacher, stigmatized long since for Sedition, Gaoler at *Lambeth House*. *Dillingham* a notorious Brownist, with his wife and family, Gaoler at *London-House*. *Devenish* the Keeper, and *Randall* the Porter, both *Conventicle-Preachers*, at *Winchester-House* : and the Porter at *Ely-House* can deliver as much extemporary Sedition as the best of them. If we look into their Army, wee shall find their intemperate zeale (not without encouragement from some great ones) hath transported them, not onely to the profanation of Churches, defacing of Monuments, tearing of holy Books, and decent Vestments, but even to the murdering of the true sonnes of the Church for joyning in her devotions, as the late example at *Lambeth* evidenceth.

Wee see then what is done for the defence of the true *Protestant* Religion, as it stands reformed and establisht in the Church of *England*. This Religion is pretended, but another is practiced ; and in order to this *new* one, (for the old hath consisted with the old government) *Episcopacy* must be rooted out: and to this end, they have used the most Reverend *Bishops*, (for no other crime then for being of that function) as whilome the enemies of the Gospel did the holy Martyrs of *Jesus Christ*, when they clothed them in the skins of wilde beasts,

to animate the dogges to teare them: so the Fathers of the Church have been set forth under the most scandalous and ignominious character, to inrage the people against them. And although they are as farre from discovering, as from agreeing what they would have in the roome of it, yet this must downe, that's concluded; and though a *Synod* be desired, as th e most competent Judge of such Controversies, yet this is to be convened onely for colour sake; the work must be *done*, or rather *undone*, before they be consulted with, or assembled. We may expostulate, though they will not allow their *Votes*, how unreasonable soever, to be disputed. How came *Episcopacy*, that hath stood so long a *pillar* in the house of God, to grow so diametrically opposite to the truth or peace of the Gospell? Was not our Religion reformed under that Government, and hath not our Church and State flourish't (to the envy of our neighbours) under it? If some *tares* have sprung up under it, have they not sprung up much faster, and spread further under other formes of Government beyond the Seas? If inconveniences have crept in through that *wall*, which, if not of *Christ's* own, is doubtlesse of his *Apostles* building: much more through those low *hedges* of their setting up, who hve no grounds besides their owne fancies to plant them on. There is a necessity of emerging *offences*, and *tares* will grow amongst the *Wheat* untill the Harvest, or else our Saviour hath deceived us. His wisdom sees, that the very chaffe may contribute something to the benefit of the good *graine* in this life, and therefore hath reserved the thorow-purging of his *floore* till his owne comming unto Judgement. A little breaking in of the *salt waters* makes our fields more fruitfull: Our chief care must be to keep out *Inundations*, and the way to doe that is to keep the bankes up and to keepe them sound, not to *levell* them.

The Houses did once thinke it convenient to declare by *Votes* (which we see religiously observ'd in other things) that they intended the abolishing, neither of the *Liturgy*, nor of the *Church-Government*: And truly if wee perceive *Votes* (which have presum'd a challenge so much respect and veneration from us) created onely to serve turnes upon occasion,

and carried *Pro* and *Con*, as emergent advantages are administered, they will presently lose their reputation (amongst us) of being infallible, and gives us hopes, that upon the more mature deliberation of second thoughts, at least all groundlesse *Votes*, apparently and experimentally destructive to the Kingdom, shall bee recalled. And for the Government of the Church (being purg'd of some abuses) wee proteste wee like the Preachers advice so well, and have found their *principles* so pestilent, that we would not willingly meddle with them that are given to *change*, unlesse we can see better Arguments produced (though this lust of the sword hath been the strongest) to move us. We are of their opinion, that having dranke *old Wine*, cannot desire *new*, for they know the *old* is better. And it is not an idle observation, that since they fell from *pruning* to *rooting up*, their endeavours have been almost miraculously blasted, by an immediate and remarkeable curse upon them.

If there be any that thinks this order in the Church is not worth the strife about it, and that our Religion may consist without it, let them with a sad and serious heart ponder these Considerations. 1. That instead of these, by the *independent* way, a Pope, and however, a Bishop will be set up in every Parish. 2. That there was no other Government (though perhaps some other qualifications in it) heard of in the Church of God; till about 100 yeares since, insomuch as some (of no small note for learning and piety) stand in great doubt, whether there can be any lawfull *Ordination*, and consequently any lawfull *Ministry* without it. These (who make up a farre more considerable party in this Church, then those who have already separated, and therefore ought in the first place by all the rules of Christian charity, to have their scruples satisfied) upon the *rooting out* of this *Ancient* Government, must needs abandon our Communion. 3. That the true *Protestant* Religion establisht in the Church of *England*, was never so much undermin'd and blemisht whilest some of the Bishops *slept*; and others were too *active*, as it hath been by new sprung up *Sects*, and *monstrous* opinions, since their office was suspended.

4. That

4. That the next *Orders* like to be quarrel'd at (if it be not too evident they are quarrel'd at already) will be the *Nobility* and the *Gentry*; and if we should allow the argument against the *Order* of Bishops, that the *Protestant* Religion, and the generall safety of the Kingdome may consist without them: may not the same argument with as good reason be taken up against the other by the meaner sort of people (who shall have hopes to share their estates amongst them) till all degrees be levelled? Lastly, That the argument of the dispute is not so much, whether Bishops, or no Bishops; as whether a King, or no King: for we must hold the *negative*, if Subjects may be allowed by force of Armes, when they cannot get the Kings consent, to pull downe any piece of his settled Government.

With the Fathers they pretend to thrust out the Children and those are commonly deciphered under the notion of *scandalous* Ministers. The truth is, it were well for the Church of God, if all that were such were thrust out of her bosome: But they have stretcht the Word to such a latitude, that if they should goe on, there would scarce be found an Orthodox man in the Kingdome out of this *Catalogue*. For there are a company of *scorners* and terrible ones, That watch for iniquitie, that make a man an offender for a word, and lay a snare for him that reproveth in the gate, and turne aside the just for a thing of nought, *Isa. 29. 20, 21*. Is hee loyall according to the obligation of divers oaths sundry times repeated by him? He is a scandalous Minister. Is he a man well affected to the present Government, &c. or to peace? he is a dangerous man, and scandalous. In the *interim* they set up their railing *Rabshachas*, that blaspheme God, and slander the footsteps of his Anointed in such sort, as their Prayers and Preaching are a very scandal, (except enmities, seditions, reviling of Gods Ordinances and Ministers, when practised by them, with the countenance of a party in both Houses cease to be workes of the flesh.) If we should forme comparisons, wee should find moates in some mens eyes, made greater by the multiplying-glasse of malice, (which they make too much use of) then the beames, that are most conspicuous in the eyes of others. In
some

some men they persecute their humane frailties and indiscretions, whilst they protect others, whose offences are died in graine. Master *Pigott* (amongst other such like *Articles*) was accused by some few seditious men of the Parish of *S. Sepulchres*, for drinking a Beere glasse of *White-wine*, with a *Lemon* and *Sugar*: and though vindicated by the testimony of 600 of the ablest men, had his reputation blatted (with no credit to his witnesses) by Master *Corbet*, who sate then in the chaire of *Examinations*, & I had like to have called it the seat of the scotnfull) and gave his hand afterwards that he was unworthy to exercise his Ministry, by which meanes he hath since been put by two *Lectures*, at *Alhallowes Berking*, and *Broad-street*. I make no question they have met with some scandalous enough: I doe not excuse them. But others they have prosecuted, whom they might with much more honour have acquitted, and given a checke to their too officious and troublesome neightours. Look we upon such as are in most favour and esteem with them, we shall find they have trode their shooes awry, aswell as others. We may set Doctor *Burgeesse* in the front, and because he was so busie to pick holes in the coates of his brethren, and rackt up, the very ashes of the dead to discover their corruptions, we shall be the bolder to remember him, not only of a man that was a *Pluralist*, but of one that the *High-Commission* looked upon for *Adultery*; And of one that with continuall *suites* of Law vext two Parishes and must have been *calculated* in the *Black-bill*, if he had not taken himselfe off by his good service against Bishops. Doctor *Downing* a reputed *weathercock*, that turns which way soever the wind of his owne humour, or ambition blowes him; sometimes a great *suitor* to be the Earle of *Straffords* Chaplaine, thinking that the readiest way to a *Bishoprick*; and whilst he had hopes of the preferment, writ stoutly in justification of that calling, Master *Calamy*, another great *Evangelist* of the new way, sometimes complied with Bishop *Wren*, preached frequently in his surplice and Hood, read Prayers at the *Railes*, bowed at the name of *Iesus*, and undertook to satisfie and to reduce such as *sculpted* at these *Ceremonies*, insomuch as the

the Earle of Warwicke said, *He would be lost if he were not taken off*, and so removed him to a living in *Essex*. This was all the *Physick* that was given him, to *purge* him from that which he now stiles *Superstition*, though it was never so before he left it. Master *Harding* another great *Apostle* for that way, if he had not secured himselfe by complying with that *faction*, had been complained of for his *vicious* life, being a notorious fornicatour, often taken by the *Watch* in a disguise with *Harlots*; and since hee ingaged himselfe for the good work, attempted a rape upon a *Vintners* wife in *Southwarke*; yet he hath made up all these *breaches* in his life, by making a greater in the Church, Master *Bridge* of *Normich* being called to an account by the Bishop (as we are credibly informed) for keeping another mans wife, left his *Cure*, and then pretended he was driven away, because he would not submit to *Innovations*. Master *Goodwin* of *Coleman-street* in great esteem amongst some of them, yet (let him spin his opinion into never so fine a thred) a *Socinian*. Master *John Sedgewicke* of *London-wall*, a *simoniacke* and *perjur'd*, both upon *Record*. And every one hath heard of that light and prophane speech of *M. Evans*, that hee did *breake* the poore womens hearts with preaching of damnation, and carried the *pieces* in his pocket. And (if wee may touch the *apple* of their eye) we have heard (for our eyes are not every where to see them) that Master *Marshall* hath a powerfull faculty of persuasion with the weaker sex, (and all *seducers* after their old master goe that way) to draw the affections, and then the estates from brothers children unto his owne. By these *instances* it is evident, that notwithstanding their zeale for a *thorough* reformation, they can dispense with *offences*, as well in the *Clergy* as in the *Laity*, if they will become serviceable unto the present *designe*.

Another thing pretended to be reformed in the Church, was *Pluralities* and *Non-residence*; and this was not so much, because they thought these things unlawfull, as to make room for their owne *Emissaries*. Who would think that men, who have voted it a thing unlawfull and unconscionable to hold *two* Livings, or but *one* and not *reside* upon it, should practice

it themselves. Nothing hath been cry'd downe more by di-
vers *Lords* and *Commons*, since the sitting of this *Parliament*,
and yet we find many late *examples* of their owne making.
Master *Goodricke* of little *Houghton* hath been taken from his
residence at his Cure, and made Lecturer at *Tottenham*, by the
meanes of Sir *Edward Barkeham* and Master *Stronde*. Master
Theodor Graves Parson of great *Linford*, in the County of
Bucks, made non-resident by an Order of *Parliament*. Master
George Horiford of *Stutsbury*, in the Diocesse of *Peterborough*,
made Vicar of *Banbury* by the Lord *Say*; it seems his Lord-
ship can dispense with a double *Benefice* in his own Chaplains.
Doctor *Wincop* (whose new preferment hath made him forget
some of his old principles) though he had the fleece of a good
flock before, the House of *Commons* hath given him *Institu-*
tion and *Indultion* into Doctor *Brayes* living, *S. Martines* in
the fields; but whether they can vote him into the profits, as
they have done into the paines, is doubtfull. Many other *Plu-*
ralists have been made this *Parliament*, (and some since the
Bill was drawne up against them.) Master *Henry Trewman*,
Rector of *Cornwall* and *Newarke*, by the Earle of *Glare*. Ma-
ster *Tho: Caril* of *Slindon* and *Harting*, by the Lord *Saint-*
Iohns. Master *Iohn Dixon* of *Glenfold* and *Baynes*, by the
Lord *Hastings*. Who can think that these men were in ear-
nest, and not rather upon designe, when they cry'd out so bit-
terly against *Pluralities*? We would faine know what gift of
Ubiquity hath been voted into Master *Marshall*, that he should
be able to officiate at *S. Margaret Westminster*, *Windsor*, or
any where, and yet not neglect his Cure at *Finchinsfield* in
Essex. Master *Cuse* officiates at *London*, and leaves his Cure in
Cheshire to be supply'd by *Rawbone* an illiterate Lay-man.

Another thing pretended for the advancement of Religion,
was the establishing of a *Preaching Ministry* throughout the
Kingdome. Certainly a very pious work, if *Orthodox* men be
planted in all *Parishes*: But if such be rooted out as are of a-
blest parts to instruct, and men of desperate principles and facti-
ous spirits thrust into their places; this (as by too wofull an
experience is now made evident) will prove destructive both

to Church and Common-wealth. Yet this is the great work for which way must be made (saith the Authour of *Plaine English*) by displacing idle, scandalous, superstitious, ignorant persons: And how must these be displaced? Why saith he, *If this advantage against them of stirring up the people to spoile and rapine were taken, it were a good likely meanes* (very warrantable and honest meanes surely, according to *Was Tylers* and *Iacke Strawes* Doctrine) of rooting out them who had shuffled their Cards so cunningly, as to be out of the reach of the Law in other respects. This puts me in mind of that which Colonell Cromwell said to Master Gatford at Cambridge, (when he took away his book out of the Presse, for speaking for obedience unto Magistrates, against the *Anabaptists* :) He told him he had been a great opposer of the Archbishops Innovations, but carried himselfe so cunningly, that the Law could not lay hold upon him, and so (he told him) he had behaved himselfe now; (in opposition to the *Anabaptists*) but though the Law could not lay hold upon him, they had a power could reach him; and this was the power of the *Dragooners*, which brought him up a Prisoner forthwith to *Ely-House*. The truth is, what ever they say, their aime is not so much at the idle and ignorant, for the one winks at all their false and odious principles, and the other concurre with them in the practice of them. Their chiefe envy is at the most learned and most painfull Preachers (if they keep not silence at their faction.) Why is the Lord Primate of Ireland, Bishop Morton, Bishop Hall, Bishop Prideaux, Bishop Brownrigg, Doctor Hildsworth, Doctor Featly, Master Shute, and others of singular learning and piety, under a cloud with them, and some of them ordered to be imprisoned? Why are so many Prisons full of men that are Preachers, as well by their Examples as their Sermons? Master Squire, Master Stone, Master Swadlin, that are scarce allowed straw to lie on, (whilest His Majesty is exclaim'd against, when he affords Rebels better usage.) Master Reading of Dover, Master Griffith of London, Master Ingaldsby of Watton in *Hartfordshire*, Master Wilcocks of Goudhurst in *Kent*. These, and many others, having done nothing worthy of death, or of bonds, are inserted

into the black Ball of scandalous and superstitious Ministers, for preaching nothing but obedience to Sovereign Authority, and points consonant to the Holy Scriptures, and the Doctrine of the Church of England, as it stands established by Act of Parliament. I confesse Master Ingoldsby aggravated his crime of preaching for obedience, by setting forth the Doctrine of our Church (in six Homilies established by Parliament, for the use of every Parish) against Rebellion, and the oathes of Supremacy and Allegiance, with the Protestation, and an Epistle prefixed to light the people unto their duty; for which he was sent for up (the second time) with a Troöpe of Horse: but escaping from them, he came of his owne accord to his prison, desirous to make his answer, which they find no leisure yet to hearken to. Nay, they will not permit that holy man Master Thrush-crosse, to teach White-Hall to continue loyall, and Protestant. He seem'd to taske the Justice of this bloudy Warre, with reflection upon this new designe, and presently an inquisition is made after him, and the Sunday following a Guard is set upon every Gate, (if not for other malicious ends likewise) to fright him from the Pulpit. This is their account of scandalous Ministers, whom they would have, either rooted out, or silenced.

Another project to advance Religion was, the taking the Clergy off from Temporall imployments; and this is stretcht so farr, that they are reputed Excentrickes, as moving out of the sphere of their calling, if they study to preach downe Rebellion and disobedience. And yet all the world knowes, their owne Clergy have been as active instruments here, as Mr Henderson in the State affaires of Scotland. Doctor Burgesse (we find him at every turne) and Mr John Sedgewicke, must be made Members of a Sub-Committee, for advancement of monies. Nay, the Doctor (who hath obtained the Title of a Colonell this Military Commencement, for riding to encourage the work, with his case of Pistols) was so officious as to assist Plundering at the Globe Taverne in Holborne. And there is not a designe, but these men have a finger in it, and of their tongues more then their share.

Wee have seen how faithfull they have fought for the Church:

Church? they promised and protested they did as much (and they have done no lesse) for the King and Kingdome. That this warre was for the defence of the Kings *Person* is such a pretence as honest men are ashamed of, and all men laugh at, unlesse you can perswade them, you teach your bullets to distinguish as nicely as your selves, between the Kings *Person* all commands, and his *Person*. Those that have heard it delivered for sound doctrine (and without controll) that the King might have been killed in the *crowd* with a good Conscience, and have seen what *Regiments* and *Troops* were most aimed at (according to Captaine *Blagues* directions) at *Keinton* battell, and heard the bullets sing about His Majesties eares, cannot believe you did more then complement, when you stiled His royall person *Sacred*; unlesse you can change the property of *Sacred* Persons, as well as of *Sacred* things, which you goe about (though all men account it *Sacriledge*) to *alienate*. And how should wee believe you would fight for the defence of His *Person*, when you seize upon all His provision, that if you cannot do it by the *sword*, you may murder him by *famine*? But admit they fight not for the defence of his royall person, yet they may fight for his *Crowne* and *Dignity*: this hath been much pretended to, and that they did so in some sence, may very well be believed. But in earnest, how can we be perswaded they tender the *Honour* of the *Crowne*, when they imploy their *Rabbies* to satisfie (if it were possible) mens consciences in a wilfull and groundlesse disobedience, by returning ill languages to sober and solid arguments against it? How doe they maintaine *Prerogative*, when they pretend to a power *Coordinate* with their Sovereigne, and set up men to cleare the Title for them, though they have no *evidence*, but such as was never seen by our wise *Ancestours*? The very name of *Monarchie* implies a *sole*ship of Government, to them that understand it. If the *Monarchy* be mixt, 'tis not so, as if the Sovereignty were shared amongst *diverse*, for that were a meer *Bull*: But this mixture consists of these two *ingredients*, viz. *settled law*, and (where a law is not settled) the *discretion* and *prudence* of the Governour. In making lawes (wherein their chiefe power consisteth)

consisteth) they may propound and consent, but it lies still in the Kings power to refuse, or ratifie. If the power of the three Estates be *Coordinate*, and the rule hold (as the *Fuller answer* will have it) (*Coordinata se invicem suppleant*, Coordinates supply one another, he presently brings the three Estates into the *House of Commons* (and they delegate the power to a close Committee) and so makes them a Court of Record to give oath, commit, and sentence at their pleasure (as they have done too many) and every *Vote* of theirs (though the King and the Lords dissent from it) by vertue of this power of *Supplying* inherent in them, shall be made an *Act* of Parliament. And if the King be brought thus low, shall he stand there? shall he not from *Coordinate* be brought a step lower, and be made *subordinate*? why, yes, that is another *Doctrine*, He is *Universis minor*, a Subject to all his Subjects; and those mistakes, which were so often condemned as breaches of their *priviledge*, were nothing else but so many acts of His Majesties *disobedience*. And His people being greater then hee, and above him, may take his owne *Forts* and *Armes*, to reduce and compell him. Was there ever any *Iesuite* out-went them in defending the rights of Kings? Some are so tender of His Majesties Crowne, that they are not ashamed to say, the oath of *Alliegiance* was never made to bind the *Protestants*, but the *Papists* onely.

If they fight not for the rights of the Crowne, perhaps they fight for the rights of *Parliament*. That hath been pretended too, yet who ever broke the *Priviledges* thereof more, then tumults of their own countenancing and raising? The *carriages* which themselves onely have managed, have brought *Parliaments* under so much prejudice and disparagement, that the ceremony of a due reverence, will be as much denied unto them as unto any thing else, till some other course be taken to restore them to their *Ancient* reputation.

Their *Plea* for the *Laws* of the *Land* is no lesse vaine: for if they had any Law for their proceedings, there should bee no need of so many strange *wilde*, and never-before-heard of *Ordinances*. Infomuch as the *Contra-Replicant* confesseth on their behalfe, in this manner. *Nothing has done us*

more

more harme of late, then this opinion of adhering to law onely for our preservation. It would be good to adde more (arbitrary) power to the Earle of Essex for (saith hee) till I see him look'e upon and served as a temporary Dictator, and the bounds of his Commission to be onely thus; Ne quid detrimenti capiat Respublica cavere: I shall never think the Parliaments safety sufficiently provided for. The Law then is not the thing you fight for, for you fight against it: And the Judges sit in the House for Ciphers, as the Clergy in the Convocation.

Doe you fight to maintain the Liberty of the Subject? Indeed you stand deeply ingaged to doe your best for that; for it was never so infringed since the Conquest, as it hath been by your selves since you have taken the charge of the Militia. If we calculate the number of Prisoners, who have been committed this yeare, we shall find hundreds restrained of their liberty most unjustly; for Master Pym told us in the name, and as the sence of both Houses (in that speech at Guild-Hall) That it is against the rules of justice, that any men should be imprisoned upon a generall charge, when no particulars are proved against them; and yet we know no particulars were proved or alleaged against the Lord of Middlesex, the Lord of Portland, &c. How many men petitioning for enlargement, when no charge could bee brought against them, have notwithstanding been detained in prison, because they had not contributed to the maintenance of the warre? And if it be so farre from truth, that any particulars have been proved, that not so much as a generall charge hath been produced, then either Master Pym in the name of the House abuses the sence of the House, or else this imprisonment is against the rules of justice. But perhaps these rules of justice are made in favour of Isaacs Pennington, and his three fellow-Citizens, Kimbolton, and the five members. Such men as these, that are members of the House, or engaged in their service, these men may not be imprisoned upon a generall charge, though it be a charge of High Treason. And yet I must tell you, if this be a true maxime of State, it is the greatest Solacisme that can be imagined, and I am sure, contrary to the practice of all Indiciall proceedings upon criminall causes;
For

For if there should be no imprisonment upon a *generall* charge before particulars are proved, then there can be no Commitment before some kind of *tryall*, and a *Constable* could not apprehend a *felon*, (though he had a warrant for it) without offending against the *rules* of Justice; for his apprehension is an imprisonment, and yet no *particulars* proved; which sayes Mr *Pym*, speaking the sence of both Houses) is against the *rules* of Justice. Well! if such an imprisonment be against the *rules* of Justice, we are taught from the prisons, the way to the unjustest *Court* extant. And if those *rules* had been as well observed on the behalfe of *all* His Majesties good subjects, as they have been soundly preached to *some* of them, there had not been that need (as wee see there is) of a *Monthly* consecration of new prisons. But perhaps the sence of the House is, that the *King* cannot commit to prison upon a *generall* charge, when no particulars are proved (His Majesties power hath been cut very short of late.) But the Houses being more *indulgent* to their owne priviledges, may *Carve* themselves a power of a greater latitude (and they have carved themselves very freely of the prerogative of the Crowne) and as occasion serve declare and use it. They may commit upon a *due information*, without any prooffe of particulars. (and this is a new created priviledge of the House of Commons, which heretofore could commit none but their owne Members) Master *Pym* in his said speech declares the practice of the House, *That they never have committed any man, but such men as by due information* (and perhaps not so due neither) *they conceived to be seditious persons, and like to trouble the peace of the State.* What! against the *rules* of Justice to imprison any men upon a *generall* charge, (though of high treason) when no *particulars* are proved, and in his next observation but one, men committed upon *Informations* and *conceives*? what is become of the *rules* of justice now? or what is become of the *Gentlemans* memory? If he hath forgot his owne *rules* of Justice so suddenly, we may cease to wonder, that he hath forgot the rule of our law, which he so much magnified in his speech upon the *Attainder* of the Earle of *Strafford*. But what! have they committed no man but

but such as by *due information* they conceived seditious? I beleeve none but such as they *conceived* seditious. *Conceit* doth much: and if they *conceive* a man so, they never *travaille* long, before their *Sergeant* playes the Midwife, and assists them to bring him forth *such* as they had conceived him to be. But we much doubt, whether this were alwaies by *due information*; for we know some, that after three weeks imprisonment (and no hearing) put in baile, and within a fortnight returned out of the Countrey, continued in prison a good while longer; and at last, the information was found so *undue*, that they were dismissed. And we have seen an Order under Master *Lawrence Whitakers* hand, that such *Gentlemen* should be moved to bring in the *accusation* against such prisoners; and if none could be found, that then they might be discharged. When the high *Sheriffe* of *Essex* pleaded, he had done nothing; (knowing innocence was wont to be a faire excuse) the *Speaker* told him, They did commit him for *prevention*. Where is the *due information* now, upon which prisoners are committed? Nay, these great *Affertors* of the subjects *liberty*, have restrained the *gray haire*s to their great hazard. Alderman *Backhouse*, not so rich as honest. And Archdeacon *Hilliar*, though above 80. yeares of age, and so infirme, that he had been a long time bed-ridden, for refusing to pay down 800.^l was carried five miles from *Excester* to be shipt away, to the endangering of his life. And Sir *George Whitmore*, very aged, was shipt away for *Yarmouth*, and could not have the liberty of a *Coach* for his health, though he promised to be at the charge of any *guard* they should think fit to send down with him. Have not some Parliament men come upon the *Bench*, and forbad the Judges granting of *Habeas Corpus*s? Can we then think these to be the *practices* of men, that stand for the *liberty* of the Subject?

If they have forborne us in the *libertie* of our Persons, they have paid us in the *property* of our Goods. Since they have applied the *sword*, we are so farre from recovery, that the *Incision* they have made renders our *cure* worse then ever our *disease* was. Our *property* received a little *scratch* by the point of *prerogative* before, but now by the *priviledge* of Parliament

the point of the sword hath made the wound *desperate*. When we read this question propounded by one of their great *Clerkes* (in his answer to the frivolous paper, for so he is pleased to stile the Petition for Peace) *Have they* (the two Houses) *not us as at such advantage, that they may undoe us every houre?* Truly, till we had found they had made so ample proofe of their ability that way, we had thought it had been but a *Paradox*, or at most but an *Article* of their *State-Creed*; We never dream't it would have been made a piece of their *Commandments*. We must confesse you *sweetned* the cup before you gave us our *bane* in it. Our restraint is mollified by the fine terme of *securing* our persons, (we pray this securing may not be extended to cutting of our throats.) And for our *estates*, you are too mercifull to destroy them at one blow; you will have but a *twentieth* part at once, that they may *consume* and *bleed* to death gently. What comes *freely* from us you accept of kindly, and we had thought you had given us the *publike faith* for an *Acquittance*, (till we see you come now againe) that we might not have been *couzened* to pay the same score *twice* over. But we must tell you, when we are come to our *ruine*, it will be all one to us, whether we were led by the backe staires with *Ceremony*, or thrown down *headlong* to it. And we take it more unkindly to be *led* downe by those we put in trust, then if we had been maliciously *precipitated* by others. And if you have forgotten the *Antidote* you gave us, we meane the *Protestation*, it workes too much upon us to be forgotten, and by vertue of that we shall joyne our selves to *repell* that violence, which hath been too long offered to the *property* of our *estates*, and *liberty* of our persons.

Having taken this strict view of so many particular *pretences*, and finding them but colourably alledged, what *aïres* can we imagine, they should heare so pleasing in the sound of the *Drum* and *Trumpet*, to bewitch them to continue this most unnaturall and most bloudy Warre? And what advantage will accrue to the whole Kingdome (for we would not be engaged further in the quarrell for particular mens ends and benefit) to countervaille the charge of our expences? Is it the *Militia* that

that we fight for, and will nothing make you forbear the use of the sword, till you have gotten the full power of it? then we must professe His Majesty hath not given so much as a colourable ground for this quarrell; unlesse it be thought ground enough for his subjects to quarrell on, that His Majesty does not as *unreasonably* resigne up all his just rights, as you demand them of Him. If His Majesty delights in *Peace*, and to see His Subjects flourish under it, (as the long experience of His gracious disposition sheweth) what use have you for a *Militia*? I pray God restore us to that *happinesse* which we enjoyed, when the sword and sheath too were both in the Kings own keeping. Is a Warre the way to conquer the Kings affections? and doe wee thinke to force Acts of grace from Him? Your sword is like to be the way which God hath appointed for you to make Him glorious; but remember you may have need enough to find Him gracious, and therefore provoke His Majesty no further unto a just severity.

Is the quarrell continued for *Delinquents*? then you should have done well to have the set King a *precedent*, in delivering Alderman *Pennington* and the rest to a legall tryall. That would have been a faire invitation to His Majesty to have resigned up those that are about Him, to the prooffe of their innocency. And whatever the Authour of *Plaine English*, and other seditious and schismaticall *Clergy-men*, (that cannot be preferred for their merit, and therefore seeke it by faction) what ever these men are affraid of, if you have retained the integrity of *honest men*, and worthy *Patriots*, you may dare to abide the issue of a present *Accommodation*. And let me tell you, if those about His Majesty laying downe their relation to the House of Parliament, (the priviledges whereof, if any were to this purpose, are as common and beneficiall to them, as to your selves) offer to submit to a legall tryall (as Subjects should doe) when the Government and knowne Lawes may have their free course; and you being under as high a charge, can plead nothing but priviledge of Parliament for your justification, and in the interim refuse to submit to the like legall tryall, you must needs be reputed *Delinquents* indeed, whilst they are cleared

by the *verdict* of every *impartiall* Judgement. And if you have gone so farre *beyond* and *against* the Law, that you are growne affraid to be try'd by it, what shall we conclude from hence but this, that you have undertaken this *Warre* in the prosecution of some *new* designe, and not (as hath been all this while pretended) for the security of our *old* Protestant Religion, Rights, and Liberties?

That this designe was the *subversion* of the *ancient* Government of the *Church* and *Kingdome*, is upon these grounds more then probable.

That a *change* was aim'd at in the Church, no man can deny; and it is made evident, 1. By the *suspending* of all Ecclesiasticall *Lawes* and *Censures*, (according to *ancient* Constitutions) insomuch as *Incest*, *Rapes*, and all *Vices* have gone unpunished: and this *Jubilee* of *Indulgence* hath drawne all offenders to comply with them. 2. By setting the people a-work (for some *Close-Committee* was the first wheele that moved this businesse) to *petition* against the *present* Government and *Service* of the Church. 3. By the *Bill* long debated, and since concluded on, for the *abolishing* of that Government. 4. By the chiefe persons countenanced and imploy'd in the businesse, who were *Brownists*, *Anabaptists*, and all sorts of *Sectaries* and *Schismatics*.

The *Patrimony* of the Church was to be *alienated* under a *pretence* of establishing a preaching Minister throughout the Kingdome: but the truth is, if their zeale had been but in a *seventh* degree so *hot* for that good work, as it was for *fighting* for a *bad* one, they might have finisht it for a *twentieth* part of that charge, which they have in a *desperate* fury put the Kingdome to. Now we beleewe, if the *Revenue* of the Church were at their *disposall*, they would change those *colours*, (which they have worne so long for fashion-sake) and make the religious charity of their *Ancestors* for the advancement of Gods worship, under a learned Ministry, serve onely to *dis-ingage* their *publike* faith, which is not like to be a *saving* faith otherwise.

When the Government of the Church had been *subverted*,
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the designe then was to be put in execution upon *Monarchy*: This is not a groundlesse *conjecture*, if we consider these *evidences*, which hold fast together, and are not to be shaken.

1. That *Declaration* upon the Earle of *Strafford* suffering with this *caution*, that it might not be drawne into example for the future. Certainly this was with an eye to that *subversion* of Government which themselves (I mean the *Projectors* of this designe) intended; that being more guilty of the same crime, by vertue of such a *Declaration*, they might be secured from the punishment.

2. The pulling downe of so many *Courts* of Justice, (which were thought to be of very good use, in the time of our wise *Ancestors*; and if there be no way of *Reformation* left, when *exorbitances* are crept into *Courts* and *Callings*, but their *extirpation*, as their practice hath been of late, what will the *doome* be of the *Supreme Court*, and the severall *callings* of the Kingdome?) with a notable blow at the *Councell-Table*. These may relieve a part of the *Subjects* from some pressures; but if something be not settled in their *roome*, may encourage others in *licentiousnesse*, and prove the *Prodromes* (as we see by these beginnings) to the ruine of our *Monarchy*.

3. The *nineteen Propositions*, whereby the King was demanded to lay downe His *Crowne*, to *compound* for His Peace with them.

4. That expression (so little understood, and so much talk't of in many of their *papers*) of a power of *resuming* the trust, which is falsly pretended to be derived unto His Majesty by the *mere humane passions* and *agreements* of the *politique body* of the people. And,

5. According to this *Doctrine*, their pretending to, and usurping of the power of the *Miliria*, both by *Sea* and *Land*.

6. Their *actuell exercising* of this power in disposing of *offices*, having made their *Speaker* Master of the *Rolls*.

Lastly, that expression of the *Gentlemen* to Sir *Edward Deering*, (when he was privie to some of their *Cabinet consultations*) That if they could bring downe the *Lords* to the *House*

of Commons, and make the King as one of the Lords, the Worke were done. It seemes they intended to reserve the honour of the Chaire for His Majestie, when they had taken downe His Throne; and it might have been His good fortune to have had a casting voice, though he is now denied His negative one amongst them. This plot was laid, and this designe in agitation (though it be a night-piece, which few have hitherto discover'd fully) before the Warre commenced; and in order to this worke, without doubt the Militia was first exercised, and the Scots a second time invited. (But we hope their Commissioners that tasted so much of the late feast, will not encourage their brethren to the fray.)

When wee consider these things, adding to them those bloody Treasons uttered publicly (without checke) as well against the whole Line of the Bloud Royall, as against the sacred Person of our Sovereigne, and those severall assaults made upon them; our haire begins to stand upright on our heads, and our consciences often reflect upon our oathes of Allegiance and Supremacie, together with our late Protestation; whereby we stand obliged, to our utmost power, to maintaine His Majesties Royall Person, Crowne and Dignity, against all treacherous practices, that may ruine, dishonour, or impaire them, and so by Gods help we will doe. And finding His Majesties late Propositions (as His Messages formerly) so just and reasonable, as nothing can be more, and yet so little listened after for our peace: We advise all our Knights and Burgeses to vote no more against our gracious Sovereigne, or the peace of the Kingdome, that they make no further use of our owne trust to murder us; for 'tis not our sense that they should proceed to shed the bloud of the ungodly, (as they terme them) when they meane all such as dissent from their wilde opinions. And as we doe protest against such Ordinances as are made against the King, or without His consent, so shall we withdraw our trust and power of representation from such as shall goe on to abuse it. And finding no possibility of peace, till the packe (that contrived this new designe, and this Warre in order to the effecting

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fecting of it) be new *shuffled*, we shall joyntly labour to *shuffle*
that *packe*, and dissolve that *knot* wherein we see our miseries
are *tryed*; and (after due *election* of new *Members* into their
places) resolve to call them to a strict *account* for betray-
ing our *trust*, interrupting our *peace*, and violating all
our *ancient* liberties, and shall not doubt of the
assistance of all good men to effect it.

PSAL. 5. 6.

*Thou, O God, shalt destroy them that speake lies: The Lord will
abhorre both the blond-thirsty and deceitfull man.*

FINIS.
